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Hispanic News

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KATHY GONZALES, RIVERSIDE ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY, SUCCUMBS

Kathryn Gonzales, 51, City of Riverside's Assistant City Attorney for over 20 years, succumbed on Thursday, March 26 at her home. Gonzales had previously been diagnosed with cancer.

Before her tenure at the City's Attorney Office in 1984, Gonzales served at the Inland Counties Legal Aid Foundation and the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of California, Davis.

Gonzales legal responsibilities included many of the city's departments, and more directly in the area of land use and planning issues before the planning commission and city council. Other areas of legal advisement were to public officials on financial and development projects, including many recent large city developments.

Gonzales was known throughout city hall as having a very even composure, even in extreme situations, and was able to provide exceptional legal advice.

Irene Morales, director of the Inland Counties Legal Aid Foundation and lifelong friend, said in a telephone interview that Gonzales was very skilled and always prepared in her legal work. "Kathy was very compassionate about people and those in need. She contributed many hours of pro bono work for persons needing legal aid." Morales also said:

"The city was very lucky to have Kathy with us. She was a strong women, and her experience and wisdom were greatly appreciated." Morales said.

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KATHY GONZALES, RIVERSIDE ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY, SUCCUMBS

Kathryn Gonzales, 51, Riverside Assistant City Attorney, succumbed to cancer. Photo by IEHN

TELCACU CELEBRATES OPENING OF TELACU SIERRA VISTA SENIOR COMPLEX

Photo by IEHN

Telacu, Inc., celebrated its newest senior citizens and persons with disability housing project in an opening ceremony at 650 W. Sixth Street, San Bernardino, with David C. Lizarraga, TELACU President and CEO, San Bernardino Mayor Judith Valles, First Ward Councilperson Judith Estrada, Alex Rogic, Senior Architect, HUD, and Maggie Pacheco, San Bernardino Housing Director. Photo by IEHN

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Continue on Page 2

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Recently, The Sun printed several articles concerning Pacific High School's performance levels on the State's Academic Performance Index (API) in the March 30 and March 31 Paul Oberjuerge columns, and articles on student unrest at Cajon High on March 27 ("Cajon High Clash Rages Concerns") and March 30 ("Schools have Growing Problem on Their Hands"). These articles highlighted areas of concern for students, and District personnel, as well as for the entire community. It is the firm commitment of the Board of Education and the entire teaching and administrative staffs in the San Bernardino Unified School District to continue to take actions to improve in these critical areas.

To this end, we feel it is important to share some strategic and ongoing actions that have been in place for over two years at both of these schools. This information was shared with reporters, but was not mentioned in the articles.

For the record, Pacific offers intensive math and language-arts classes before and after the regular school day, and it has expanded its AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program that has proven to improve student achievement. Pacific offers Advancement Placement and Honors classes in all content disciplines, operates an excellent ROP Nursing program, has a state of the art auto shop, and an award winning Fine Arts program, just to name a few.

Also, Mr. Oberjuerge failed to mention that Pacific High students recently ranked sixth out of 41 teams in San Bernardino County for their performance during the Academic Decathlon, a high competitive academic competition. The top-scoring student in the entire county, Joshua Pierce-Funcke, is a Pacific student, who also placed first in Literature and in Super Quiz. In the MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement) competition held at UCI, three Pacific students placed third scoring higher than students from Riverside, Imperial, San Diego, and Fresno counties in the Algebra I, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus competitions. An Arroyo Valley High School student, Dolores Dickson, placed first in the 9th grade SAT Verbal contest.

Our school district is very proactive in preventing student violence on campus and in our community. Cajon High students are known for their longstanding efforts to foster mental health through the UNITY Forums they have organized at Cajon and schools across the state. The forums, honored as one of six outstanding local programs, are designed to break down stereotypes and help students better understand and accept their differences and breakdown stereotypes and help students better understand and accept their differences and similarities. The new Safe School Ambassadors Program held a two-day youth workshop in February 2004 at Cajon. Students were taught how to defuse situations through effective communication and problem-solving skills. The Pastors on the Premises mentoring program at six District sites, including Cajon and Arroyo Valley High Schools, has resulted in fewer discipline problems during the school day.

We agree that there is a need for our continued best efforts and commitment to see improvement in all areas that affect the lives of our students. There is certainly no room for non-action. We believe that the vast majority of our students are law abiding, with great potential for meaningful contributions to our community. We believe that our teaching staffs and administrators are committed to student success. We believe that we are headed in the right direction with decreasing drop-out rates, increasing college rates, five years of meeting and exceeding our District API target growth scores, and exemplary programs that have received state and national recognition.

We invite the members of our community to see the excellent programs themselves through our Principal For A Day program. We welcome the communities' participation in the San Bernardino Community Scholarship Association, which awarded $4,448,763 in scholarships to 148 graduates in the class of 2003. Support our schools by enrolling in the Adopt-A-School Program and join over 155 local businesses and service groups that have pledged their support to schools across the District by providing incentives and resources that enhance the educational experience for our students.

We are proud of the accomplishments we have made and are confident that we will continue to improve our academic progress on API and we will continue to build cohesive, peaceful, and safe school environments for all students.

Sincerely,

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D
Superintendent
San Bernardino School District

CESAR CHAVEZ CELEBRATION AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 650 IN REDLANDS

KATHY GONZALES, RIVERSIDE ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY, SUCCUMBS

when starting as an attorney, Gonzales and Gil Gutierrez, local attorney, fought developers who were attempting to demolish low-rent housing. Both lawyers fought the developers for years and eventually won the case for the renters and continuation of low-cost housing in the region. "We are going to miss her very much," she said.

Gonzales was very committed to serving the community. She served on several community groups: Community Foundation Board of Directors for two terms, the blueprint for Volunteer Diversity, Riverside Community College-Puente Monitoring Program, County's Mock Trial Competition, and co-founder and past president of the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association.

Judge Taylor, who was Gonzales' professor at UCR, was instrumental in directing her to UC-Davis to continue her legal education.

Riverside County Superior Court Judge Joe Hernandez, a friend and mentor, said that Kathy was a kind and outgoing person. "I had known Kathy for many years and she was acquainted with many in our community, especially those who were helped by her generosity. She was an excellent attorney and family oriented. We, the community, are going to miss her tremendously," he said.

She was the recipient of the City's Distinguished Public Service Career Award and the YWCA Women of Achievement Award.
RIVERSIDE SALUTES MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

On October 19, 1945, Staff Sergeant Ysmael Villegas was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions.

Dr. Wendell Tucker, Ysmael Villegas Middle School’s principal, described how students at the school have developed a ‘village’ pride in honor of Villegas. He presented awards to eight students who won in a school art contest.

On Wednesday, April 7, 2004, Retired Judge Sylvan Katz attended the 80th birthday ceremony for Sgt. Villegas at the Riverside City Hall. Katz, retired colonel in the 127th Infantry Regiment, was a friend of Sgt. Villegas and fought with him during the campaign in the Philippines.

Villegas unit confronted the enemy while the enemy concentrated their fire on Villegas and their efforts swept through the strong point. When the charge was over, 75 of the enemy lay dead in the foxholes, neutralizing five enemy gun positions, and inspired the men to victory. Villegas reportedly saved approximately 400 trapped American soldiers from being killed. His actions defied true courage, strength of body and spirit under merciless fire, Candelaria said.

Three weeks prior on March 1, Villegas had been presented with the Silver Star for gallantry in combat by destroying an enemy machine gun nest.

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CESAR CHAVEZ CELEBRATION IN SAN BERNARDINO AT THE GENTS CENTER

DEDICATION TO EDUCATION LOUIS & EDWARD RODRIGUEZ

Louie and Edward Rodriguez, sons of Louis and Elva Rodriguez, San Bernardino, are finalizing their higher education goals to pursue dual careers in the teaching profession, primarily to direct their educational backgrounds and ideals to teach young Chicano/Latino children in minority neighborhood schools.

Both young men were raised in Colton. Louie attended preschool to high school in Colton and later attended San Bernardino Valley College. He transferred to Cal State, San Bernardino and graduated with a BA in Psychology with an emphasis in Education. At CSUSB, Chicano faculty member David Chavez encouraged him to attend graduate school. Louie applied and was accepted at Harvard University. Since then, he has received two M.A. Degrees, in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy. He is currently a fourth year doctoral candidate at the Hav. Graduate School of Education at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Edward, his younger brother, attended McKinley School in Colton partially in the sixth grade when the family moved to San Bernardino. In San Bernardino, he completed sixth grade at Northpark Elementary School, Shandin Hills Middle School and graduated from Cajon High School in June 1998.

Edward applied and was accepted at the University of Oklahoma. He received an undergraduate degree in Mathematics Education in May 2003. He is currently enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles, pursuing a teaching credential and masters degree.

"I firmly believe that for the richest nation in the world, there is no reason why all Chicano/Latino children should not be entitled to an equitable, just, and empowering education. I am committed to doing everything possible that all Chicano/Latino children receive the education they deserve."

Edward, his younger brother, attended McKinley School in Colton partially in the sixth grade when the family moved to San Bernardino. In San Bernardino, he completed sixth grade at Northpark Elementary School, Shandin Hills Middle School and graduated from Cajon High School in June 1998.

Edward applied and was accepted at the University of Oklahoma. He received an undergradate degree in Mathematics Education in May 2003. He is currently enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles, pursuing a teaching credential and masters degree.

"I have a strong desire to educate underrepresented students of color in urban inner-city public schools. Being a Chicano, there is a special and constant awareness on my part in this community and hope to empower these diverse students as a social justice educator."

Father Louis Rodriguez said in a telephone interview that there was always an emphasis on education in the home and both sons were encouraged to take advantage of the good education out there. "We supported everything they did in school and urged them to get as much education as possible. Their mother and I are very proud of their achievements. The Rodriguez’s have a son, Eric, that recently graduated from Cajon High School. He is planning to follow in his brothers’ footsteps. The parents are enrolled at San Bernardino Valley College.

LATINO LABOR

A report by the Pew Hispanic Center shows Hispanics measured strong employment gains last year—adding nearly twice as many jobs as non-Hispanic workers. It was the first time since January 2000, the center says, that Hispanics experienced sustained increases in employment that outpaced population growth. The number of employed Hispanics increased by 659,641 from the fourth quarter of 2002 to the fourth quarter of 2003—more than double the increase in employment in the preceding year, and nearly double the increase in employment in the preceding year, and nearly double the 371,066 increase in the number of employed non-Hispanics.

The report, which analyzes data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau, also says the proportion of the Hispanic working age population that is employed rose in the last half of last year, reaching 63.3 percent in December as the Hispanic jobless rate dropped to 6.6 percent.

Construction, business services, wholesale and retail, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and mining industries were the major sources of employment for Hispanics in 2003, the study says.

The study notes, however, that the mean weekly wages for Hispanics remained relatively stagnant —
GENTS SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER-A GREAT SUCCESS

San Bernardino School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. Arthur Delgado, left, presenting a plaque to the Gents Organization for their scholarship contribution to students in the San Bernardino School District.

The Gents Organization sponsored its Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser at the Community Center attended by over 650 persons from throughout the Inland Empire. President Tony Diaz, spoke to the large crowd, “The Gents Organization has awarded scholarships to students at high schools in the Inland Empire, a tradition that has existed for over three decades. We are proud to be able to help our students go into higher education and become successful in their careers.”

Diaz also expressed his appreciation to the audience and sponsors for the “overwhelming” support to make the event a financial success.

The seven-hour event included dinner, raffles and our outstanding Latin bands, MALO, TIERRA, THE CASUALS AND NIGHT LIFE.

San Bernardino School District Superintendent Dr. Arthur Delgado presented a plaque to the Gents Organization in recognition for their many years of contributing scholarships to students in the San Bernardino School District.

Diaz recognized individuals for their contribution to the Gents Organization: Susan Diaz for her many hours of volunteer work with projects sponsored by the Gents Organization. Susan Diaz is daughter of Carlos and Martha Diaz, and a loan officer for American World Finance; and Carla Rodriguez, owner of Starr-Al, Inc. and Fatima Reyes, co-sponsors of the event.

The Gents Organization organized as a youth group during the early 1950’s and involved in social and sports activities, and volunteering in the numerous activities in the Westside of San Bernardino. The group disbanded and in 1972, reorganized as a non-profit organization with Pete Ramos as its first president. The Gents have since contributed to many other non-profit groups, especially youth groups, sponsoring events and involved in numerous community activities.

Susan Diaz displayed her plaque received at the Gents Organizations’ fundraising event. Diaz has contributed many hours of volunteer work for the non-profit organization. Photo by IEHN

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Siempre es conveniente saber donde están enterradas las lineas de servicios públicos subterráneas antes de comenzar cualquier tipo de proyecto que implique cavar. Las líneas pueden estar escondidas debajo de calles y senderos; incluso debajo de terrenos vacíos y a lo largo de los límites de una propiedad. Siempre que necesite cavar, asegúrese de llamar Dig Alert. Dentro de dos días laborables luego de su llamada, cada servicio público visitará su propiedad y marcará donde se encuentran sus instalaciones, para que de esta forma usted o su contratista pueda cavar con seguridad. El no obtener la ubicación apropiada de las líneas de los servicios subterráneos puede tener como consecuencia multas significativas y costosas facturas de reparación.

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ANTONIO ARREDOONDO, JR. APPOINTED

ARREDOONDO ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF ANTONIO ARREDOONDO, JR. TO THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION. SUPERINTENDENT FOR PERSONNEL SERVICES AT THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION.

Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, announced the appointment of Antonio Arredondo, Jr. as the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services at the Riverside County Office of Education.

Arredondo, currently superintendent of the Perris (elementary) School District, replaces Dr. Damon Castillo, Jr., who is retiring.

Arredondo has been superintendent of the Perris School District since 1992. He is a former director of staff development of the Perris School District and former school principal in Perris. He was an elementary school teacher in the Jurupa Unified School District and a program assistant in Head Start/State Preschool for RCOE.

"I am extremely proud of what I have accomplished during my 12-year tenure as superintendent of the Perris School District," Arredondo said. "I will miss all of the good people who work for this district. I am excited to have this opportunity to join the Riverside County Office of Education and be part of Dr. Dave Long's team."

LATINO LABOR

The report also says last year's gains were uneven: Foreign-born males and construction-industry workers enjoyed the biggest increases in employment, but women and native-born Hispanics did not see similar gains. For more information, see pewhispanic.org.

SALE REPS WANTED

The IEHN is seeking assertive persons as sale representatives within the INLAND EMPIRE. GOOD commissions. Call (909) 381-6259 for appointment.

CONSOLIDATED PLAN

To receive the 2003-2004 CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds, the County prepared a consolidated grant application to HUD. For the purpose of these grant funds, this area is referred to as the "County Consortium."
INLAND EMPIRE ACTIVITIES

Workshops for Westside senior citizens, Thursday, April 8, 2004 at 1601 Seventh Street & Medical Center Dr. San Bernardino) 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. No Cost workshops sponsored by the 16th St. Senior Citizen Ministry. The workshops will include information on Trust & Estate Planning, free tax service by the Franchise Tax Board, services offered by County of San Bernardino Dept of Aging (house painting, yard clean up, weatherization for both renters and home owners). All seniors are welcome.
For information call (909) 888-0084.

ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION, “Linking Learning to Living”. Sponsored by SB County Supt. of Schools, Lewis Group of Companies and Arrowhead Credit Union. Thurs May 13, 2004 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at CSUSB, Contact Leslie Rodden or Crystal Lopez at (909) 886-2636.

San Bernardino Valley College, Co-sponsored by SB County Dept. of Children’s Services and Big Bear Mountain premium spring water and First S. Training Workshops on Positive discipline, Anger Management, Brain Development & Parenting. Fun activities for the kids: creative art, storytelling, crafts, planetarium show. Vendors including: Health Screening, Car seat clinic, children’s books, toys, community info and food. Saturday, April 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Home of Neighborly Service, 839 N. Fifth St., Rancho Cucamonga sponsored by SB Counties Business Resource Employment Resource Center 9650 by SB Counties Business Resource

S. B. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SALUTES OUTSTANDING PERSONS

San Bernardino League of Women Voters selected 18 outstanding persons who personified the commitment to their community through volunteer work and involvement in special projects. The following three recipients exemplify the selection of outstanding selectees.

Argie Brogdon, Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino member, volunteers in numerous community projects and devotes her artistic talents to fundraising activities. Photo by IEHN

Marie Arakaki, Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino member, is involved in special projects for children and scholarship fundraisers. Photo by IEHN

Grand Terrace Councilperson Bea Cortez was selected for her fundraising efforts on behalf of the Grand Terrace Library. Photo by IEHN

INLAND EMPIRE ACTIVITIES

Working with the San Bernardino Valley College and the San Bernardino County Department of Aging, the Alliance for Education is providing workshops for seniors on various topics such as estate planning, free tax service, and services offered by County of San Bernardino Department of Aging. All seniors are welcome to attend these workshops.

The San Bernardino Valley College is also hosting workshops in collaboration with the Big Bear Mountain premium spring water and First S. The workshops will cover positive discipline, anger management, brain development, and parenting. Fun activities for children and vendors including health screening, car seat clinics, children's books, toys, community information, and food will be available.

As part of the Alliance for Education's program, the San Bernardino League of Women Voters selected 18 outstanding individuals who have personified commitment to their community through volunteer work and involvement in special projects. Three of these recipients are exemplars of the selection process:

Argie Brogdon, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, volunteers in numerous community projects and uses her artistic talents to support fundraising activities.

Marie Arakaki, also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino, is involved in special projects for children and scholarship fundraisers.

Bea Cortez, a Grand Terrace councilperson, was selected for her fundraising efforts on behalf of the Grand Terrace Library.

The San Bernardino County Department of Aging also offers workshops to seniors, which are titled “Linking Learning to Living.” These workshops are sponsored by the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, the Lewis Group of Companies, and Arrowhead Credit Union. They provide information on various topics such as estate planning and free tax services.

In addition, the San Bernardino Valley College is offering workshops on positive discipline, anger management, brain development, and parenting. These workshops include fun activities for children and vendors such as health screenings, car seat clinics, children's books, toys, community information, and food.

With a variety of workshops and events available, seniors and others in the community have opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with each other. For more information or to register for these events, contact the respective organizations.
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RPD Law Enforcement Career Expo

If you are interested in a career in Law Enforcement, Riverside Police Department units demonstrating their services invite you to the Career Expo.

- Learn Interviewing Skills
- Speak to Officers and Management staff
- Hear Guest Speakers
- See Riverside Police Dept. units demonstrating their services
- Learn about the various work units in the Police Dept.: Dispatching, Motorcycle Teams, Helicopter Unit, Narcotics, Canine, SWAT and more...

Saturday, May 15, 2004, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Fairmount Park in Riverside.

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Check the back of your March City of Riverside Public Utilities Department bill statement for your Free Shade Tree Coupon!

Green Power - Good for Riverside, Good for the World